

Introduced by Senator Wyland

August 31, 2009

Senate Resolution No. 28—Relative to Rett Syndrome Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a childhood neurodevelopmental
2 disorder that almost exclusively affects females. Although it is
3 present at birth, symptoms usually do not develop until children
4 are between six to 19 months of age; and

5 WHEREAS, Rett syndrome strikes all racial and ethnic groups,
6 and occurs worldwide in one of every 10,000 to 23,000 female
7 births. The International Rett Syndrome Foundation is currently
8 aware of only 381 individuals affected with Rett syndrome in the
9 State of California; and

10 WHEREAS, Rett syndrome causes problems in brain function
11 that are responsible for cognitive, sensory, emotional, motor, and
12 autonomic function. These can include problems in learning,
13 speech, sensory sensations, mood, movement, breathing, cardiac
14 function, and even chewing, swallowing, and digestion; and

15 WHEREAS, Some of the first symptoms of Rett syndrome
16 include problems with crawling or walking, diminished eye contact,
17 and, eventually, other problems with body movement; and

18 WHEREAS, There is no known cure for Rett syndrome, but
19 symptoms can be treated with medication. Also, occupational
20 therapy, physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy can prolong mobility;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Rett syndrome presents many challenges, but with
23 love, therapy, and assistance, those with the syndrome can benefit
24 from school and community activities well into their middle age
25 and beyond. They experience a full range of emotions and show

1 their engaging personalities as they take part in social, educational,
2 and recreational activities at home and in the community; and

3 WHEREAS, We still have much to learn about Rett syndrome,
4 but there has been promising research and there have been
5 significant advances in diagnosis; and

6 WHEREAS, Californians are encouraged to support those
7 affected by Rett syndrome, their families, and the medical
8 professionals who provide them with quality health care; and

9 WHEREAS, By acting now, we can make a difference in the
10 future for Californians afflicted by Rett syndrome and their
11 families; and

12 WHEREAS, To promote greater awareness of this disorder and
13 of the need for more study; and

14 WHEREAS, To increase awareness so we can help find
15 misdiagnosed persons and provide them with an accurate diagnosis
16 that promises longer, healthier lives; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the month
18 of October 2010 is hereby designated Rett Syndrome Awareness
19 Month; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the author for distribution.